



Get Out

to the Madison Regatta & Roostertail Music Festival

58th Annual Madison Courier Souvenir Section

A special publication of The Madison Courier



REGATTA FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Little Miss & Princess Pageants
Noon, Opal Sherman Auditorium,
Madison Consolidated High School
Admission: \$5

The Little Miss pageant for girls ages 6-8 and Miss Princess for girls age 9-11.

Miss Pre-Teen & Teen Pageants
5 p.m., Opal Sherman Auditorium,
Madison Consolidated High School
Admission \$5

Miss Pre-Teen for girls ages 12-14 and Miss Teen for girls ages 15-17.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Baby Contest & Cutie Pie Contest
Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. –
Contest at 6 p.m.
Bicentennial Park

Registration for the Cutie Pie and Baby contests will be on the June 29, the day of the event, with the \$20 entry fee per contestant to be paid in cash. No checks accepted. Boys and girls from 0 to 23 months are eligible for the Baby contest. They will compete in a red, white and blue outfit or swimwear. Boys and girls from 2 years to 5 years are eligible for the Cutie Pie contest. They will compete in red, white and blue summer wear. Sponsored by Morgan and Nay Funeral Centre.

MONDAY, JULY 1

Niki Washer Miss Madison Regatta
Scholarship Pageant
6:30 p.m., Opal Sherman Auditorium,
Madison Consolidated High School
Admission: \$10

The annual scholarship pageant to determine who will preside over the 2024 Madison Regatta Festival and reign as Regatta Queen over the next year. Winners receive scholarships, a crown, trophy and gifts from local merchants and represent the community throughout the Regatta Festival and the Indiana Governor's Cup race program. Sponsored by Morgan and Nay Funeral Centre.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

Madison Regatta Waterball Fights
6 p.m. on Main Street at Broadway Street
Admission: Free

Firefighters representing the various departments throughout the area display their skill and stamina while competing in



Madison Elks Club 524 won the Mayor's Choice award in at the 2023 Hometown USA Parade.

the this annual event. The format has two teams face off in a tug-o-war, using the jet spray of their fire hoses to move a large ball suspended high on a cable across the opposing team's marker to win. The overall champion gets a trophy and bragging rights for a year.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

Showing of the movie 'Madison'
Dark at Bicentennial Park
Admission: Free

The motion picture "Madison," based on the true story of Miss Madison's win in the 1971 Gold Cup, will be presented on a big screen in Bicentennial Park sponsored by the city of Madison.

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Meet and Greet/Autograph Session
7 p.m. at VIP Tent
Admission: Free

Enjoy some time meeting your hydroplane heroes. Sponsored by the Steinhardt family.

Music by Missy Wolf and the Howlers
Fireman's Park, 7 p.m.
Admission: Free

Southern Indiana based band performs.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

Free admission Friday on the Riverfront
H1 Unlimited, Grand Prix America/
Hydroplane Racing League, and Pro Lite
hydroplanes testing and qualifying on the
Ohio River.

City of Madison Hometown USA Parade
6 p.m. Main Street between Jefferson and
Cragmont streets
Admission: Free

The theme is Hometown USA to provide a patriotic feel to this year's parade that will feature decorative floats, hydroplanes, marching bands and other entries on Madison's Main Street.

Roostertail Music Festival
Gates open at 4 p.m.
Bicentennial Park

Admission: A \$70 Boat Race and Music
Festival wristband or \$45 Music Festival
Only wristband.

Day One of the Madison Regatta Roostertail Music featuring Erin Vaincourt at 5 p.m., Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper at 6:20 p.m., the Steel Woods at 7:45 p.m., Blackberry Smoke at 9:30 p.m., Isaac Rudd and the Revolvers at 11:20 p.m.


THE
MADISON COURIER

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REGATTA FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Firecracker 10K Run/Walk

8 a.m. from Madison Consolidated

High School to Gaines Park

Now in its 45th year, the Firecracker 10K Run and Walk annually draws hundreds of runners and walkers — and many more spectators — to a scenic 6.2-mile road course that takes participants from Madison's hilltop to downtown. Entry forms are available online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Madison/MadisonFirecracker10K> with the online registration deadline Friday, July 5. There will also be registration at the starting area at Madison Consolidated High School's parking lot near Connor K. Salm Gymnasium on race day from 6:45 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. Online entry fee of \$35 (plus a \$3.10 sign-up fee) for runners and walkers. On race day, the cost is \$40 (plus a \$3.40 sign-up fee).

Madison Regatta

On the riverfront

H1 Unlimited, Grand Prix America/ Hydroplane Racing League, and Pro Lite hydroplanes testing and preliminary heat racing.

Autograph Session

Time & location to be determined

Come meet the H1 Unlimited, Grand Prix America/Hydroplane Racing League, and Pro Lite series drivers for a free autograph session. Sponsored by Tony and Phyllis Steinhardt.

ROOSTERTAIL Music Festival

Gates open at 2:30 p.m.

Bicentennial Park

Admission: A \$70 Boat Race and Music Festival wristband or \$45 Music Festival Only wristband.

Day Two of the Madison Regatta Roostertail Music Festival with Taylor Hunnicutt at 3:30 p.m., Ritch Henderson at 4:40 p.m. Stephen Wilson Jr. at 5:50 p.m., Mike and the Moonpies at 7:10 p.m., Wyatt Flores at 8:45 p.m., 49 Winchester at 10:30 p.m. and Hot Brown Smackdown at 12:05 a.m.



The glow of hot air balloons lights up the night sky as they tether along the Ohio River in downtown Madison.

Fireworks Extravaganza

Approximately 10 p.m.

Madison Riverfront

Admission: Free after 4:30 p.m.

The traditional Regatta Weekend colorful and loud fireworks extravaganza on Saturday night in celebration of the very first Fourth of July celebration in 1776. Admission is free and open to the public. The area from West Street to Broadway will be restricted to patrons with an All Access wristband but fireworks spectators will be able to see the show from anywhere on the riverfront and hear the music coming from nearby Bicentennial Park.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

Madison Regatta Indiana Governor's Cup

Admission: A \$70 Boat Race and Music Festival wristband or \$40 Boat Race Only wristband.

Final preliminary heats for H1 Unlimited, Grand Prix America/Hydroplane Racing League, and Pro Lite hydroplane series leading up to the winner-take-all finals including the H1 Unlimited Indiana Governor's Cup championship.



Mike Bath, chaplain of the Major Samuel Woodfill Madison Post 9 American Legion hands out candy and flags at the 2023 Hometown USA parade in Madison.



Parade spectators enjoy the antics of Mad Hatter Kevin Watkins as he dances about tossing "magic" dust during the Friday night Hometown USA Parade.



Blackberry Smoke was the Saturday night headliner at the 2023 Madison Regatta & Roostertail Music Festival and will be back this year but as the Friday night headliner.

The Bicentennial stage will soon be ready and the bands and fans will descend on Madison for the sixth Roostertail Music Festival with more performers than ever before.

The festival, held as a part of Madison Regatta Weekend annually since 2018 — with the exception of the COVID cancellation in 2020 — will include return engagements by fan favorites Blackberry Smoke (2023) and The Steel Woods (2021) as well as fiddling sensation

Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper, who have performed locally several times, on the opening night.

Friday night looks to get the event off on a hopping foot. After Erin Vaincourt opens at 5 p.m. the powerhouse trio of Cleveland & Flamekiller, Steel Woods and Blackberry Smoke will play back-to-back-to-back from 6:20-11:15 p.m. before Isaac Rudd & the Revolvers ends the night with a 120-minute set that won't end until 1:20 a.m.

If that just whets your appetite for music, Saturday's lineup will run from 3:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. including a repeat performance by Mike and the Moonpies (2019) — now performing as Silverada — at 7:10 p.m. followed by Wyatt Flores, 49 Winchester and Hot Brown Smackdown with the city's huge fireworks spectacular set for sometime between the Flores and Winchester sets.

Here's the complete lineup:

2024 ROOSTERTAIL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bicentennial Park, Madison

FRIDAY, JULY 5

5 p.m.-6 p.m. — Cleveland-bred singer/songwriter/guitarist Erin Vaincourt featuring Americana, Western swing and classic outlaw country storytelling.

6:20 p.m.-7:20 p.m. — Henryville, Indiana fiddler/vocalist Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper featuring old-time and bluegrass.

7:45 p.m.-9 p.m. — Nashville-based The Steel Woods featuring American country.

9:30 p.m.-11:15 p.m. American country rockers Blackberry Smoke, from Atlanta, return for the second consecutive year.

11:20 p.m.-1:20 a.m. — Indianapolis-based Isaac Rudd & the Revolvers featuring Americana rock n' roll.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

3:30 p.m.-4:20 p.m. — Demopolis, Alabama singer songwriter Taylor Hunnicutt featuring blues, soul, country and Americana.

4:40 p.m.-5:30 p.m. — Cullman, Alabama songwriter, musician Ritch Henderson featuring rock 'n roll.

5:50 p.m.-6:50 p.m. — Seymour, Indiana singer/songwriter Stephen Wilson Jr. featuring indie rock, grunge and country.

7:10 p.m.-8:25 p.m. — Austin, Texas-based Silverada, formerly known as Mike and the Moonpies until 2024, featuring neotraditional country.

8:45 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Stillwater, Oklahoma's Wyatt Flores, a Grand Ole' Opry performer featuring troubadour storytelling against a gritty country soundtrack.

10:30 pm – Midnight — Russell County, Virginia-based 49 Winchester featuring Appalachian country soul.

12:05 a.m.-2 a.m. — Louisville-Based Hot Brown Smackdown, featuring traditional bluegrass instrumentation with elements of rock, jazz, and funk.

Madison's annual 10K road race — the 45th running is set for Saturday, July 6 — is a Madison Regatta tradition dating back to 1979 when it was first sponsored by The Madison Courier, and continued beginning in 2021 by the Madison Area Run Club (MARC)

MARC will host its fourth 10K starting at 8 a.m., and MARC President Nicholas Schafer thinks the club is finally getting into a groove on the event. "It has gotten easier as we've got a hang of what needs to be done," he noted.

The 6.2-mile race run and walk begins at the Madison Consolidated High School parking lot, travels through the Madison State Hospital grounds, heads down Hanging Rock Hill into downtown Madison and up Third Street until turning north onto Broadway for the finish alongside Gaines Park — a change in the finish that's now in its third year after previously ending at Lytle Park.

"We think the finish line move was a big hit," Schafer said, noting they plan to keep it at Gaines Park.

The big change this year is that medals will be provided to all runners and walkers and be handed out as they cross the finish line. There will also be recognition to the top three runners in each age category while also adding an 80 year and older category for runners.

The honor of 10K starter this year is in memory of Mary Taylor, a longtime race volunteer who died last fall after a difficult battle with cancer. Taylor and her husband, Gary, had set up and maintained a water station at the bottom of Hanging Rock Hill

where they motivated and encouraged runners and walkers for the long climb up Third Street to the finish.

"They play motivational music and he's on a bullhorn cheering people on. It's cool to come down that hill and be on the last leg of the race, and you've got a group of their family cheering you on," said Schafer. "With all the help and encouragement Mary provided the participants and the race committee, we thought it was a fitting to honor her in this way."

Schafer said volunteers like the Taylors and others are what make the 10K race possible, ranging from helping register participants before the race, to supporting them during and after the race from making sure roads are closed on the course and safe, to setting up the start and finish lines, preparing packets to be picked up, having water stations along the course, and cleaning up the road and start and finish areas afterwards.

"It would be impossible without volunteers," he said. "It is quite bit of work but it is rewarding afterwards."

There will once again be shuttles available at the finish to transport runners back to the Madison Consolidated High School parking lot after the race. Additionally, there will be some parking available at the Norton King's Daughter's Health Clinic lot located near the finish line.

To register visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Madison/MadisonFirecracker10K>. Cost is \$35 (plus sign-up fee) for both the run and the walk. Final online registration is Friday, July 5. Race day registration will be from 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and the cost is \$40.

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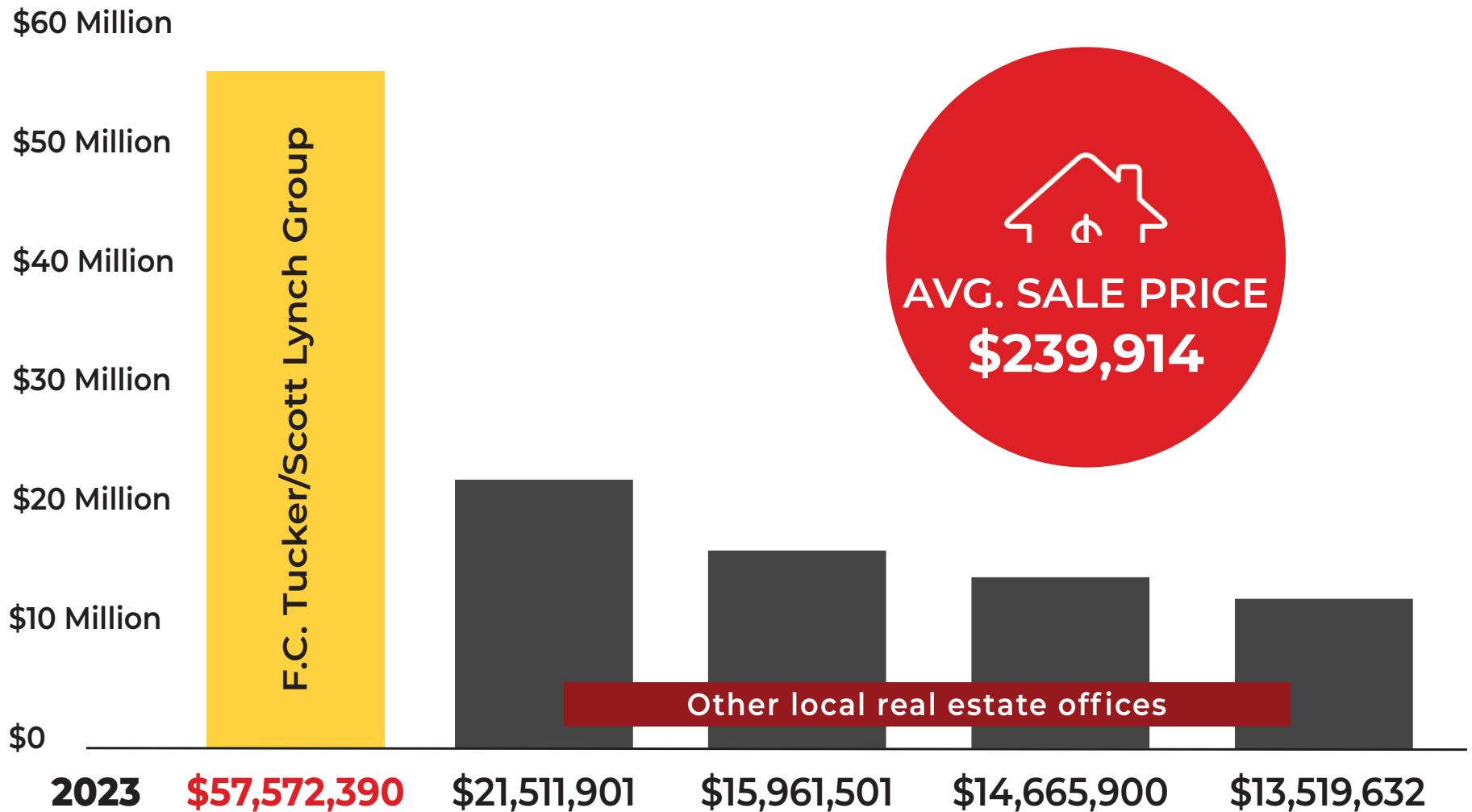
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Father-son duo to lead Madison Regatta in 2025

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Kyle Bipes' earliest memory of the Madison Regatta was in 1998 when at the age of five, he got to serve as an honorary crew member for The Alamo Unlimited Lights team owned by Ned Allen. From that moment on, he was hooked.

"They kind of took me under their wing. They were the fastest Unlimited Light ever and I got to sit on top of their hauler and watch the whole race all weekend long and that's really when the love for the sport came in," Bipes said. "And I don't think I've missed one in my 30 years of being alive and at this point, I don't think I'm ever gonna miss one."

Bipes got the opportunity with The Alamo largely thanks to his father Tim, who served as Regatta president that year. The father and son have shared that hydroplane racing connection ever since and starting in August they will share more than just a love of the sport when they become Madison Regatta's president and vice president for the next two years.

Kyle Bipes is wrapping up a two-year stint as vice president and, per Regatta rules, moves automatically into the president position. For the younger Bipes, there was nobody he wanted more to serve as his vice president than his father.

"It's super nice because he's way more level-headed than I am," Kyle Bipes said with a smile. "I get an idea, something gets into my head and the first thing I do is call him to say, 'Hey, is this a good idea?' Probably nine times out of 10 he says 'you probably shouldn't do that.'"

The elder Bipes has that sage experience from holding virtually every position one can serve in the Regatta. He moved to Madison to serve as a rescue diver and worked his way up through the safety & rescue ranks to picket boat operator to eventually president.

Along the way, he married Linda Ice, the daughter of 1972 Madison Regatta President Jack Ice, making his son Kyle the first third-generation president in Regatta history.

The past several years Tim has served as treasurer before accepting the vice president position. He had no intention of ever returning to the president's role but the chance to work with his son was hard to pass up.

"It's a lot of work. And that's part of



Starting in August, the father and son team of Kyle Bipes (left) and Tim Bipes (right) will serve as Madison Regatta President and Vice-President, respectively.

the reason that I decided to be his vice president," Tim Bipes said. "Also, being a father, I'm going to try and protect him just a little bit. I got to experience one of the worst situations that we could have been through (in 1998) and it can't get much worse than that. I know a lot of older presidents that we can at least call on to help if we have questions or anything. So that was kind of the thing. I think my kind of motto or mantra right now is we're getting the band back together."

The Bipes will be taking over an organization that's facing challenges, but is also on the rise. The Regatta has worked hard over the past several years to

get its finances in shape and enters 2025 in a good place. But there is always room for improvement.

"The big goal is to maintain what the whole Regatta team has done the past few years. Obviously, everything changed for everybody post-COVID, but everybody that's been involved the last five years has done a tremendous job," Kyle Bipes said. "Not a single person has lacked in anything. So keep moving forward trying to think of more ideas to help this thing grow. I mean, obviously the music festival, boat race and fireworks aren't going anywhere. But we have to find another piece that can help bring more people."

As a result, they're looking to expand the Regatta's footprint.

"We've got like three quarters of a pie right now. We need something to complete it," Tim Bipes said. "Starting this year, we've got the Madison's Got Talent competition. We did the Balloon Glow last year which was a phenomenal success. People loved it and we're moving that into Regatta Week. So we're trying to bring more stuff in. And these were ideas that people in the committee have come up. We've got people on the committee that love the Regatta and love boat racing and that's what we need. There's not many of us, but it's a good mix and we're working well together."

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VETERAN KELLY ENTERS 2024 AS DEFENDING CHAMP BY THE COURIER STAFF

When your boat carries the U-1 on its hull, you carry the bull's-eye on your back.



**Driver J.
Michael Kelly**

One means as the defending national champion you are currently the best boat on the circuit. But it also means that everyone will be gunning for you on the water to seize that coveted U-1 for themselves.

That will be the case for defending champ J. Michael Kelly, who will be piloting the newly-crowned U-1 Beacon Electric and going for what would be his third National Championship.

Kelly was crowned champion in 2023 — his other title was in 2021 — by not only winning two races, but by being able to keep



THE U-1 MISS BEACON ELECTRIC

his boat intact, run consistently well, and win the game of attrition.

After a second place finish at Lake Guntersville in Alabama, Kelly was running upfront in the Indiana Governor's Cup final and engaged in a great duel with Dylan Runne in the Miss HomeStreet. It appeared Runne was going to outrun Kelly and grab the win, but Dustin Echols' bad luck — he blew the Bucket List Racing over

and forced stoppage of the final heat — was Kelly's good luck as the threat of severe weather canceled the final heat and Kelly was awarded the Governor's Cup on points.

After coming up just short in Tri-Cities, Kelly was able to claim his second career APBA Gold Cup with a win in Seattle also capping his national championship season.

Kelly enters this year with technically the same

boat, but the Strong Racing Team has been hard at work and has made substantial modifications to the boat going into the 2024 campaign. Kelly showed off his speed in the preseason test session with a speed of 159.945 mph.

Going into his 21st H1 campaign, Kelly would love to cement himself as the circuit's best driver by bringing home another national championship.

PEABODY LOOKING TO BUILD ON STRONG 2023 BY JORDAN BEAR

Corey Peabody was due for a strong season in 2023. After winning the APBA Gold Cup in 2022 on Lake Guntersville in Alabama, disaster struck as a horrific crash in the final heat of the Indiana Governor's Cup at Madison saw Peabody's boat nearly destroyed.



**Driver Corey
Peabody**

But the team rebuilt in time for 2023 and Peabody turned in a fantastic season

to guide the U-9 Beacon Plumbing to two victories and a second place finish in the National High Points standings.

His standout performance was back in Guntersville where he was named the Southern Cup Championship for the second



THE U-9 MISS BEACON PLUMBING

straight year. Unfortunately, that win did not come in a final heat due to stormy weather that canceled conclusion of the event with Peabody named winner based on point totals for the weekend. However, he had been the class of the field and set a Guntersville course record with a 164.597 mph competition lap.

What likely cost Peabody the 2023

National High Points championship happened a week later in Madison. After winning his first preliminary heat, the Beacon Plumbing died in the second heat and the team had to withdraw due to mechanical issues.

Peabody bounced back in Tri-Cities with his second win of the year and finished third in Seattle, but teammate J. Michael Kelly in the

U-9 Beacon Electric had too large of a lead for season champion to be caught.

Peabody is hoping finally for a season where he has no crashes or issues mechanically. If he can pull that off, there's no doubt the U-9 will be one of the top boats in the fleet. He showed that with a speed of just north of 160 mph in preseason testing in May.

NILSEN RETURNS AS PILOT OF U-11 BY JORDAN BEAR

One of the few constants in Unlimited racing is that veteran driver Jamie Nilsen will once again pilot Unlimited Racing Group's U-11 hydroplane owned by Scott and Shannon Raney, but this year it will be with a new sponsor, Bellevue, Washington-based Mercurys Coffee Company.



**Driver Jamie
Nilsen**

A 10-year professional on the H1 circuit, Nilsen is still looking for his first unlimited victory. He consistently runs in the middle of the

pack but always makes things interesting no matter the race and he was runner-up at Madison just a year ago. In fact, Madison has been a good course for Nilsen, back in 2014 he scored his first unlimited heat win ever on the Ohio River at Madison.

Nilsen raced hard all last season but unfortunately his boat just didn't have the horsepower to keep up with the top boats in the field. He was still consistent enough to post a respectable season overall by keeping the boat on the water and coming away with a fourth place finish in the National High Point Standings.

Nilsen and the team have worked hard in the off-season and have shown that there



THE U-11 MISS MERCURY'S COFFEE CO.

may be more speed in the boat for their new sponsor and new paint scheme.

The former college minor league baseball player will look to field one of the top boats

in the fleet this year and, after posting a respectable 157.155 mph in the pre-season testing session on the Columbia River, Nilsen is not the driver to sleep on.

**THE U-91 MISS GOODMAN REAL ESTATE/MISS MADISON**

MISS MADISON WANTS TO RECLAIM TITLE WITH TATE

BY JORDAN BEAR

Andrew Tate will once again pilot the U-91 Goodman Real Estate this year, but unlike last year he will drive the only boat Miss Madison Racing will be fielding and with the team's full support behind that effort.

Tate, who drove Madison's older 2007 hull last year, is moving over to the 2018-vintage T-7 hull that was piloted by Dylan Runne last year in HomeStreet Bank's final campaign in the series.

The newer boat is known to be faster and better handling so Tate hopes to put Miss

Madison back at the front of the field after being knocked out of National High Points contention in just one race last year.

At the Southern Cup on Lake Guntersville, Tate had scored the second-most points on the weekend before blowing the boat over on the first turn of lap one. Worse yet, driver Dustin Echols in the Bucket List Racing was unable to avoid the wreckage and ran over Tate's boat. Both drivers escaped injury but the Goodman Real Estate sustained additional damage and the Bucket List was also knocked out of Madison and points contention.

**Driver Andrew Tate**

When Tate's boat missed the Madison Regatta a week later, it was a disappointment to the hometown fans and by losing all points for that event, Tate and the Goodman were quickly out of contention for a national title.

Tate was running near the front of the pack at Tri-Cities but was assessed a one-lap penalty for jumping the gun. Finally, at the APBA Gold Cup in Seattle, Tate had the early lead in the winner-take-all final and ran up front the first two laps, but was unable to hold off J. Michael Kelly who drove away to his second Gold

Cup win to secure his second national championship.

The series' 2016 Rookie of the Year and 2018 National High Point Champion, Tate is looking to do a lot more winning this coming season.

With full support of Miss Madison Racing, he posted the fastest time at preseason testing in Tri-Cities, Washington, with a speed at 165.828 mph — more than 3 mph faster than Kelly's closest competition.

Tate will look to win his second Indiana Governor's Cup at Madison — his first as a Miss Madison driver — and his a second National High Points Championship.

**THE U-40 BUCKET LIST RACING**

ECHOLS EXPERIENCED BOTH HIGHS AND LOWS IN 2023

BY JORDAN BEAR

Dustin Echols had quite a year in 2023 in what was easily the best season of his young career. He set an exhilarating speed record at Guntersville but also experienced a devastating blowover at Madison.

Echols got off to a blazing start and quickly put the whole H1 Unlimited circuit on notice with a record qualifying speed of 171.294 mph at the season opener on Lake Guntersville in Alabama.

However, he could not parlay that speed into his first career victory, colliding with a stricken Andrew Tate and the U-91 Goodman Real Estate/Miss Madison in the final heat.

While working on a solid weekend in Madison a week later, Echols saw disaster strike again when his boat blew over on the second lap of the final heat of the Indiana Governor's Cup. Despite landing rightside up,

the boat suffered significant damage requiring extensive repairs.

The Stocklin Racing team immediately headed west and worked long hours to get the boat ready for the two west coast races and Echols had a great showing in the Tri-Cities where he was right behind winner Corey Peabody for a good chunk of the final heat before coming up just short for a second place finish. Unfortunately, he

then struggled in Seattle and settled for a fourth place finish.

Overall, it was an up and down season with high peaks and low valleys for the former H1 Rookie of the Year but he finished third in the National High Point standings, the best performance of his career by far, and served notice that he has the speed to be a contender.

After a solid 161.466 mph speed in preseason testing, Echols could be ready to break through and finally grab that elusive first victory of his career.

**Driver Dustin Echols**

MADISON REGATTA
Past winners

1951 — Marion Cooper, Hornet	1970 — Dean Chenoweth, Miss Budweiser	1989 — Jim Kropfeld, Miss Budweiser	2008 — Jeff Bernard, Formulaboats.com
1952 — Burnett Bartley, Wildcatter	1971* — Jim McCormick, Miss Madison	1990 — Chip Hanauer, Miss Circus Circus	2009 — Dave Villwock, Miss Elam Plus
1953 — Burnett Bartley, Wildcatter	1972 — Bill Muncey, Atlas Van Lines	1991 — Mark Evans, American Spirit	2010 — Steve David, Oh Boy! Oberto
1954 — Bill Cantrell, Gale IV	1973 — Mickey, Remund, Pay'N Pak	1992 — Chip Hanauer, Miss Budweiser	2011 — Steve David, Oh Boy! Oberto
1955 — Danny Foster, Tempo VII	1974 — George Henley, Pay'N Pak	1993 — Chip Hanauer, Miss Budweiser	2012 — Dave Villwock, Spirit of Qatar
1956 — Fred Alter, Miss U.S. I	1975 — George Henley, Pay'N Pak	1994 — Chip Hanauer, Miss Budweiser	2014 — J. Michael Kelly, Graham Trucking
1957 — Jack Regas, Hawaii Kai III	1976 — Bill Muncey, Atlas Van Lines	1995 — Mark Tate, Smokin' Joe's	2015 — J. Michael Kelly, Graham Trucking
1958 — Don Wilson, Miss U.S. I	1977 — Mickey Remund, Miss Budweiser	1996 — Mark Tate, Smokin' Joe's	2016 — Jimmy Shane, Miss HomeStreet Bank
1959 — Ron Musson, Hawaii Kai III	1978 — Bill Muncey, Atlas Van Lines	1997 — Dave Villwock, Miss Budweiser	2017 — Andrew Tate, Delta/Realtrac
1960 — Bill Muncey, Miss Thriftway	1979* — Bill Muncey, Atlas Van Lines	1998 — Dave Villwock, Miss Budweiser	2018 — Jimmy Shane, Miss HomeStreet
1961 — Bill Muncey, Miss Century 21	1980* — Dean Chenoweth, Miss Budweiser	1999 — Chip Hanauer, Miss Pico	2019* — Jimmy Shane, Miss HomeStreet
1962 — Bill Muncey, Miss Century 21	1981 — Dean Chenoweth, Miss Budweiser	2000 — Dave Villwock, Miss Budweiser	2021* — Jimmy Shane, Miss HomeStreet
1963 — Bill Brow, Miss Exhide	1982 — Tom D'Eath, Squire Shop	2001 — Steve David, Oh Boy! Oberto	2022 — Corey Peabody, Lynx Healthcare
1964 — Chuck Thompson, Tahoe Miss	1983 — Jim Kropfeld, Miss Budweiser	2002 — Nate Brown, Miss Elam Plus	2022 — Jimmy Shane, Miss HomeStreet
1965 — Chuck Thompson, Tahoe Miss	1984 — Chip Hanauer, Atlas Van Lines	2003 — Dave Villwock, Miss Budweiser	2023 — J. Michael Kelly, Beacon Electric
1966 — Mira Slovak, Tahoe Miss	1985 — Steve Reynolds, Miss 7-Eleven	2004 — Dave Villwock, Miss Budweiser	
1967 — Billy Schumacher, Miss Bardahl	1986 — Chip Hanauer, Miller American	2005 — J.W. Myers, Miss Elam Plus	
1968 — Billy Schumacher, Miss Bardahl	1987 — Jim Kropfeld, Miss Budweiser	2006 — Dave Villwock, Miss Elam Plus	
1969 — Dean Chenoweth, Myr's Special	1988 — Scott Pierce, Mr. Pringle'	2007 — Dave Villwock, Miss Elam Plus	

* - APBA Gold Cup



Bobby King celebrates after winning the 2023 Pro-Lite Series race in the H242 Diego's Mexican Grill. It was King's second-straight win at Madison.

PRO-LITE HYDROPLANE SERIES

Team Information

Boat | Driver | Owner | Homeport

E-8 The Wolverine | Alex Manga | Alex Manga | Pickeney, Mich.

E-17 Modern Drummer | Jeff Sankur | Jeff Sankur | Marine City, Mich.

E-40 Goodell Racing | Dillon Goodall | Dillon Goodall | Allen Park, Mich.

E-55 Hold On Loosley | Rob Betke | Mike & Monica Betke | Oxford, Mich.

E-100 Sum Toy V | Tony Black | Tom Newman | Dublin, Ohio

E-242 LDC Construction | Bobby King | Roger Mahan | Shelby Twp., Mich.

E-323 Maximum Racing | Carl Adams | Medina, Ohio

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GP, HRL join forces for Grand Prix Challenge 2024

BY THE COURIER STAFF

A new initiative between the Grand Prix America and Hydro Racing League will lead to a record number of Grand Prix class boats at this year's Madison Regatta.

The two rival groups will compete in "The Challenge," a three-weekend event that will take place at four different sites, including Madison July 6-7.

For years, the Washington state-based GPA and the Canada-based HRL have been somewhat at odds, running two different series with two different points champions. But over the past few years, teams have been crossing league lines as they seek more favorable scheduling.

This year, the two groups have decided to join forces — at least for three weeks — in an effort to not only

boost both series but to strengthen race sites as well. The "Challenge" will kick off in Guntersville, Alabama, and/or Brockville, Ontario, on June 29-30, followed by Madison on July 6-7 and will conclude in Valleyfield, Quebec, July 12-14, where points will be doubled. Participants are required to compete in at least two of the venues to be eligible for the top prize of \$40,000.

"It is with pride that the Valleyfield Regattas and the Hydroplane Racing League commit to this new challenge," Emilie Daoust, general manager of the Hydroplane Racing League and Valleyfield Regattas, said in a statement. "We firmly believe that for the well-being of the competition, the happiness of our fans, and the future

of the Grand Prix class, it is essential to look forward and build a promising future for our sport."

Madison sits in a prime position for the series. While the first week teams will be split between Guntersville and Brockville, teams will need to compete at Madison if they want to have a chance at the title in Valleyfield. As a result, 15 Grand Prix boats are committed to racing at Madison.

"They told us that we're in the catbird seat right now because Brockville and Guntersville are going to split the points and everybody loves Madison because we bring in the local sponsors," Madison Regatta Vice President Kyle Bipes said. "Valleyfield brings in a bigger purse and drivers are going to have to come out

to our race. There were some setbacks early on with it and some contract negotiations but they finally got it set. I'm pretty excited about it."

The 15 Grand Prix boats, coupled with five Unlimited hydroplanes and nine Pro-Lite Series boats means the Madison pits could be tight this year.

"My plan is to have boats on the water at all times," Bipes said. "This certainly helps with that."

Lane assignments for the initial set of heats at each site in both series will be determined through qualifying. The process will also be applied to the Challenge, ensuring uniformity and fairness for all competitors across all race sites. It is a system that was

SEE **CHALLENGE/PAGE S16**

GRAND PRIX SERIES

Team information

GP-3 PLEASURE SEEKERS

Jimmy King, driver
Roger Mahan, owner

Veteran Unlimited driver Jimmy King helms this fast entry in the Grand Prix field. Roger Mahan is one of the most highly-respected owners in the sport.

GP-10 THE CHARGER

Kevin Eacret, driver
Bryan Richards, owner

One of two entries by owner Bryan Richards, The Charger is a fast boat and an instant contender. Kevin Eacret is a veteran Unlimited pilot who has driven at every level.

GP-15 OLD TRAPPER BEEF JERKY

Greg Hopp, driver
Jerry & Greg Hopp, owners

Veteran H1 Unlimited driver and fan favorite Greg Hopp is back at the wheel of the bright-yellow Hopp Racing entry. Hopp finished second at Madison last year and expect him to let out a loud "Wool!" if he gets the win this year.

GP-17 MISS RENEE

Tyler Echols, driver
Bryan Richards, owner

Team failed to finish the final heat here last year but is considered one of the front-runners. Bryan Richards also owns the GP-10, driven by Kevin Eacret.

GP-20 BLOWN INCOME RACING

Ed Preston, driver
Larry Linn, owner

Popular team is back on the circuit after suffering damage in a serious blowover last year. Preston has previously won in the Grand Prix series at Madison.



Andrew Tate (right) was all smiles after steering the GP-88 Hydrofish to victory in the Grand Prix America Series race at Madison in 2023.

GP-33 JACK LUPTON MOTORSPORT

Jack Lupton, driver
Jack Lupton, owner

One of two entries from New Zealand, Jack Lupton was a force on the circuit two years ago. His brother Ken Lupton drives the GP-577 Lucas Oil and both are contenders for the race and the series championship.

GP-35 RIVER CITY PRINTING

Brandon Kennedy, driver
Ron Thompson, owner

Brandon Kennedy is back for his fourth season driving in the Grand Prix ranks. The GP-35 is a strong boat but had a rough 2023 at Madison, blowing both of its engines and being forced to withdraw from the race.

GP-39 MEGAVOLT

TBA, driver
Maryann Schaller, owner

A new team that has announced plans to run the entire circuit in 2024. Veteran Unlimited driver Scott Liddycoat is getting the boat ready for the season, but a driver has not yet been announced.

GP-50 FREEDOM

Bobby King & Ken Brodie II, driver
Don Less, owner

Bobby King will drive the U-12 Graham Trucking on the 2024 H1 Unlimited circuit so driving duties of the GP-50 will be shared. The Grand Island, New York-based team competes in the Hydro Racing League out of Canada and is making its first appearance at Madison.

GP-71 THE WILD ONE

Andrew Tate, driver
Huey Newport, owner

Miss Madison driver Andrew Tate is the regular driver for this powerhouse entry and won at Madison a year ago but he will not defend that title since he will focus on piloting the U-91 Goodman Real Estate/Miss Madison. No announcement has been made on who will drive for Tate at Madison.

GP-79 BAD INFLUENCE

Jeff Bernard, driver
Mike Grendell, owner

One of the powerhouse teams in the sport, former Miss Madison driver Jeff Bernard always has the Bad Influence near the front. He jumped the gun here last year and settled for third.

GP-104 MISS CLEOPATRE

Marc Lecompte, driver
Line Mayer, owner

The Valleyfield, Quebec-based team comes from the popular Hydro Racing League out of Canada. Lecompte is a veteran driver with numerous championships on his resumé.

GP-135 MISS KOOLKAT

John Shaw, driver
Ed & Andrea Thompson, owner

Veteran driver John Shaw is in his first year driving the GP-135. Shaw, who has been driving raceboats since the age of 14, also drives Al Thompson's F-92 Tenacity.

GP-212 SYLCO

Eric Langevin, driver
Eric Langevin, owner

Veteran team has been racing for the past decade in Canada and makes its first appearance in Madison this year.

GP-577 LUCAS OIL

Ken Lupton, driver
Ken Lupton, owner

One of two entries from New Zealand, Ken Lupton won several races on the circuit two years ago and is back after taking the season off.

GP-757 CANADA BOY

Robin Demers & Mario Blain, drivers
Mario Blain, owners

Driver/Owner Mario Blain is one of the movers and shakers in the Hydro Racing League and was instrumental in bringing the Grand Prix Challenge to Madison.

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CHALLENGE

FROM PAGE S14

proven effective and popular during the 2023 Valleyfield Regattas, and should continue to excite fans.

“This is the year it all comes together. We anticipate the presence of 10 to 15 Grand Prix boats in the pits — an exhilarating prospect for fans, competition sites, and the entire show,” said Mike Grendell of Grand Prix America. “This marks a

significant step in our preparations for next year, heralding an era of renewed dynamism and continuous development in our sport.”

“The Grand Prix Class Challenge promises to be the biggest event our class has seen in over 16 years. It’s a monumental moment, almost as important as the creation of the ACHA series,” said longtime boat owner Huey Newport. “This new collaboration represents not just a major milestone for us, but also marks a new chapter of thrilling competition and increased enthusiasm in the world of Grand Prix racing.”



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Welcome to the challenging, scenic, thrilling, historic, twisty, rolling, satisfying and stupendous roads of Madison, Indiana!

This is a story about a lifelong love of motorcycles, an appreciation for curves, and how I was lucky enough to end up living in the midst of some of the best enthusiast's roads in the country.

Madison Indiana is known for a lot of things, from its historic architecture to its boat racing to its amazing and lively music scene. What it's not as well known for, although that's about to change, is its wealth of twisty and scenic driving routes, traversing everything from smooth sweeping highways to rugged gravel country lanes.



CHARLIE ROHLFING
CHARLIE'S BEAT

I'm a lifelong motorcycle fanatic. I have never NOT owned at least one bike my entire life, starting with that first obligatory minibike at age 12, up until today with a vintage BMW road bike and a street-legal Honda dirt bike.

To be a devoted motorcycle rider with a taste for adventure, you need two things. First and foremost, you need roads that will challenge and inspire you. If you can't lean your bike through the curves, you might as well be in a car, I always say. And the second thing you need is like-minded moto heads to share the ride and help tell the tale.

Fortunately for me, I've found both things in and around Madison. My life is enriched by my riding buddies, and transported by the unequaled roads we have here.

Without a doubt, the flagship route is a 100 mile loop we've been riding for many years, leaving from Madison, passing through the towns of Cross Plains, Friendship, Dillsboro, Rising Sun, Vevay, and then back to Madison. It features 1,000 curves, from tight switchback twisties to flat out high speed sweepers and it takes about 4 hours to run it. I've ridden it so many times over the years it's like an old friend, familiar but still full of fun and surprises.

Now, this amazing loop is being branded and marketed by our local tourism office, in hopes of attracting large numbers of motorcyclists and sports car enthusiasts to our town. It's being called "The Serpent of 62" and I can attest it's one of the best motorcycle routes I've ever ridden.

This might be a good time to introduce a few of my riding buddies, and get their take on our favorite paved road loop. Dr. Kevin Watkins owns a Triumph, and he's been riding the 100 mile loop with me and the guys for close to 2 decades.

With twisty roads that you can lean a bike into, the Serpent of 62 features 1,000 curves over 100 miles of scenic driving pleasure.



"Well, the natural thing to do, whenever you want to describe the quality of a great motorcycle road," explains Kevin, "is compare it to the most famous road in the eastern U.S., the Tail of the Dragon, also known as Deal's Gap. It's in far eastern Tennessee, and its claim to fame is 318 turns in 11 miles.

"I've ridden the Dragon several times, and it is super tight and twisty. But I'll tell you what else it is. It's crowded. By any measure there are just too many people on that 11 mile stretch. And another thing to consider, it's in the middle of nowhere, with nothing really to do after you've spent 20 minutes buzzing the road. With the Serpent of 62, you begin and end in downtown Madison, one of the prettiest and most fun towns in the country.

"Another thing I like better about the Serpent than riding the Tail of the Dragon, there's so much more variety and interest spread over 100 miles and a full afternoon of riding and taking refreshment breaks in the towns. There are twisties and curves and some straight sections, spanning every kind of terrain from valleys to ridge tops to river's edge.

"Whether you are looking for a relaxing scenic drive or a thrilling and challenging blast, you'll find exactly what

you are looking for with the Serpent of 62."

Another of my riding friends is Wayne Stearns of North Vernon, one of the most devoted and experienced motorcyclists I've ever met. Wayne logged some 35,000 miles in one riding season recently, covering virtually every corner of our continent you could access by road. Alaska to Mexico, and California to Labrador, Wayne has been there. And that makes him uniquely qualified to judge our local roads and routes.

"The thing I like about the Serpent route," explains Wayne, "is all the many attractions and historic interest along the way. The Tail of the Dragon, by comparison, is a short run through a green tunnel, with nothing to see but the lines on the sides of the road.

"The Serpent of 62 goes through Canaan, Indiana, which has an amazing pioneer history. Cross Plains which was founded in the 1820's. And then Friendship, which is the home to the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. Friendship has a great little tavern downtown, which is a nice spot to take a break.

"Next up is Dillsboro, with an old abandoned Nike missile base at the

From twists and turns to rolling hills, the Serpent of 62 is challenging enough to be fun but an easy enough drive to enjoy the scenery.



Columnist Charlie Rohlfing takes a break from riding his vintage BMW road bike on the Serpent of 62 to fuel up at one of the many restaurants in historic downtown Madison. There are plenty of spots to pause for food and refreshments on the 100-mile Serpent, which can take anywhere from four hours to a few days to explore depending on how many stops you make along the way and how long you spend enjoying each.

edge of town, and then down into Rising Sun which has undergone a kind of renaissance since getting a casino boat some years ago. There's a super cool museum in Rising Sun that houses an antique racing boat outfitted with a massive Packard engine.

"Finishing out the ride with the last of the 1,000 curves is a run along the Ohio River to Vevay, and then on back to Madison. I'm a huge Madison fan, I'm here just about every weekend, enjoying the restaurants and the vibrant music scene. I really love this loop, both for riding thrills and points of interest. It's bucolic!"

One of my other moto posse brethren, John Gray, phrases it even more succinctly. "I'd put our roads around Madison up against anything else in the country." And John should know. He's been up to the Arctic Circle on the AlCan Highway, and as I write this article he's crossing the country on his way to

SEE **ROADS/PAGE S18**

ROADS

FROM PAGE S17

Redmond, Oregon for the big national BMW rally.

I'm glad John put his comment in the context of "the roads around Madison." The fact is, while the Serpent of 62 is a great route, really the perfect length for a full morning or afternoon of riding, there are so many other fun roads emanating from downtown Madison. You should check out the Reverie Roads series of routes, featured on the VisitMadison.org website if you want some shorter or different options from the Serpent.

I mentioned early in this article that I owned a vintage BMW motorcycle, which is the bike I use for longer paved routes. But I also have a street legal dirt bike, otherwise known as a "dual-sport" motorcycle. That means it can do paved roads, gravel, dirt, and even off road trails if the need arises. And Jefferson County still has many miles of gravel roads and wet creek crossings that make for perfect dual sport riding.

Some of my favorites are Comely Ridge over near Brooksburg, Barbersville Road and Bloody Run out beyond Canaan, and the granddaddy of all gravel, the



REVerie Roads moto trail's Serpent of 62 winds along twisty roads through dense woodlands and open ridges with scenic views for miles and passes through historic river towns with views of the Ohio River.

famous Bee Camp Road on the way to Vevay, with 6 creek crossings in a one mile stretch! If you have a Jeep or a small motorcycle, these roads deliver some of the best scenery in the county, a true glimpse into the past before everything was widened and paved.

I guess I write this article with mixed emotions. On the one hand I want to share this treasure with other riders and drivers who I know would find these roads as enjoyable and exciting as I do. On the other hand, it's been somewhat of a best kept secret for many years, and we often ride with very little traffic. I suppose in the end if there were a few more hard core enthusiasts out there with us it would make the whole thing more fun. Just not too many!



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Your guide to 'Get Out' to Madison in July

BY ANDREW FORRESTER
EXECUTIVE TOURISM DIRECTOR
VISIT MADISON INC.

We are in the middle of summer, and Madison has no shortage of things to do each weekend and every day of the week!

Trip planning can be exhausting, so I went ahead and planned your weekends in Madison for the month of July. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all the fun things you can experience here ... for the full list of restaurants, stores, and events, head to www.visitmadison.org

JULY 3RD-7TH — YA GOTTA REGATTA (AND OTHER FUN THINGS!)

Regatta Week is one of the busiest weeks in Madison each year, and it's because of all the FUN that happens. It's a party, festival, family reunion, concert, hydroplane race, class reunion, cookout, and celebration of our country all rolled into one!

Start your long weekend in Madison on July 3rd for Mayor's Movie in the Park, for the annual showing of the movie "Madison," enjoy food trucks and a movie under the stars at Bicentennial Park. On Thursday, hike around Clifty Falls State Park in the morning, and then check out our downtown shops and restaurants in the afternoon.

Relax with a walk along the river on Friday morning and a walk up the Heritage Trail, before relaxing at your stay of choice and gearing up for the weekend events! Friday night is the Hometown USA Parade, which starts on Main Street at 6 p.m. and features all the racing teams and lots of traditional parade fun. Head down to Bicentennial Park to enjoy music at the Roostertail Music Festival featuring Blackberry Smoke, and Isaac Rudd & the Revolvers.

On Saturday morning, stop by the Farmer's Market for some fresh produce or baked goods, while grabbing coffee at nearby Analog Coffee. Ladies, you may want to line up for the annual Betty Jeffries \$20 dress sale, while guys head down to the riverfront to grab a spot to watch the hydroplanes the rest of the day. Head inside in the afternoon to cool down (it always seems to be HOT!), and then enjoy the FREE Fireworks



American Cruise Lines will make several stops at the port of Madison this summer including the first round of visits by the American Heritage paddle wheeler (pictured) and the American Melody riverboat, which will both dock at Madison on July 19.

Extravaganza on the riverfront and more Roostertail Music Festival with 49 Winchester and Hot Brown Smackdown.

On Sunday, all eyes are on the riverfront as you watch hydroplanes going nearly 200 mph competing for the Indiana Governor's Cup — and hey you might even see the governor!

JULY 12-14TH — A MORE RELAXING WEEKEND ITINERARY

Come for the Jefferson County 4-H Fair this week and get your homemade (& hot) donuts from the Methodists, and then stay for the whole weekend! Thursday night features a "Bull Bash" presented by the Madison Indiana Rodeo, and Friday night is Music in the Park.

On Saturday morning the 13th, you'll have your pick of places to be: Cars & Coffee behind the Madison Visitor's Center, Board & Brunch at The Attic with "Endless Summer Paddle Company," or get a tour of St. Michael the Archangel if history and architecture is more your thing! Your Saturday afternoon can be a Women's Hike at Clifty Falls State Park and then cap your day off with an elegant dinner at Red on Main before crossing the street to hear music from Holy Roller and Jordan Wilson Coalition at Red Bicycle Hall.

Before departing, enjoy coffee at the Red Roaster or a full breakfast at The Crêperie and stop by the Visitor's Center to grab a Walking Tour brochure and enjoy a leisurely walk around Madison at your own pace.

JULY 19TH-21ST — SIGHTSEEING, SHOPPING, AND SINGING

Riverboats are back in Madison this weekend ... take a look at a modern riverboat American Melody and a traditional paddlewheeler American Heritage both docked in Madison for their Inaugural Call on Friday, July 19th! Everyone is welcome to visit Madison's Riverfront to witness these modern and classic riverboats up close, to take pictures and enjoy these beautiful boats and welcome their guests to Madison. On Friday night, head to the Ohio Theatre to sing and dance along to Broadway songs, and stop by Pizza Uncommon for a slice of pizza or a whole pie!

Saturday should be filled with shopping during the annual Sidewalk Sale presented by the Madison Main Street Program, this year is Candyland themed! Businesses will have big sales up and down Main Street, so put your walking shoes on and make sure you're ready to carry all those bags of things you buy on sale! Grab dinner at MAD LOVE eat+ drink, and go to Red Bicycle Hall for the Solid Gold Yacht Rock music party. Dance and dress up ... there will even be a costume contest!

On Sunday, I'd recommend a ride down the open road around Madison. Check out "REVerie Roads," which will take you on specially curated motor trails where you can experience "1,000 curves in 100 miles" on the Serpent of 62. Enjoy lunch at The Falls Restaurant at Clifty Inn before heading home to plan your next visit to Madison!

JULY 26TH-28TH — MOVIES & MUSIC

On Friday July 26th, get a candle handmade in Madison at Christy's Candles & Gifts, and head down to River Oak Chophouse (try the steak!) for a delicious dinner. After enjoying your dinner, grab a chair or blanket and check out the movie "Wonka" under the stars at Bicentennial Park!

Saturday will be a full day with the Farmer's Market around the Broadway Fountain and a golf cart poker run that's a LOT of fun: the kick-off to Ribberfest, the 3rd annual "Porker Poker Pub Crawl." Rent a golf cart from Acree Alley Carts and enjoy the day riding around Madison in style and have a chance at winning prizes.

Cap off your Saturday with Music at the Lanier Mansion featuring the Celtic band "Keltricity." There's nothing like relaxing in a chair and listening to music with the Mansion as the backdrop.

ON ANY DAY!

I've given my weekend recommendations for July, but what about coming on a weekday? There's still plenty to do! Stay the night at Clifty Falls State Park and enjoy watching the river go by from rocking chairs overlooking the river, or head downtown and stay in the middle of it all at the newly opened Chandler Hotel.

Our Main Street was just named a Great American Main Street, and it shows! Old Tyme Marketplace is the perfect place to shop for home goods and food goodies to host your next party, and they're open every day! Buy the perfect gift for the man or woman in your life by shopping fine clothing at James Dell, Betty Jeffries, or Fine Threads.

Off Broadway Taproom and Red Pepperoni are restaurants that are also open seven days a week, and provide great food options in fun and relaxing atmospheres.

DON'T MISS AUGUST

Plan ahead! Don't miss Madison Ribberfest on Aug. 16 & 17 ... there will be barbecue, there will be blues ... what more can you want? Mark your calendar now and buy your tickets today at www.madison-ribberfest.com!

53rd Oldham County Day set for July 20 celebrating County's bicentennial

BY VICTORIA MOTYKA
OLDHAM COUNTY DAY CHAIRPERSON

LA GRANGE, KY.

Oldham County Day is fast approaching and is always the third Saturday in July, this year falling on July 20. As we celebrate Oldham County's Bicentennial, the theme has appropriately been selected as "Celebrating 200 years" for the 53rd year of celebration.

GRAND MARSHAL

The Grand Marshal of the Parade this year is a community loved, hometown girl, Liska Coggeshall. Working her way up as a young girl to become owner of the local Dairy Queen, she has given so much to our community, and lending help to schools and charities. Although she has recently turned over the reigns to her daughter, Coggeshall is well deserving of this honor for all she has done in La Grange and Oldham County over the years. A luncheon in her honor will be held on Tuesday, July 16, from noon to 1 p.m. at the John Black Community Center. The public is always invited and tickets can be purchased online at oldhamcountyday.com.

PANCAKES

On Oldham County Day, La Grange Rotary Club kicks off the festivities with their annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast starting at 7 a.m. and serving until 10:30 a.m. For the earlier arrivals, Louisville League of Mascots will meet and greet you at the door. Have your camera ready for a fun photo!

PARADE

Everyone loves a parade! The parade starts at Immaculate Conception Church at 10 a.m. and continues down Fifth Avenue to Jefferson Street, then on to First Avenue (KY 53) ending at the Southeast Christian Church/Planet Fitness shopping center. The parade is at full capacity so it will be exciting! Expect to see lots of red, white and blue decorated floats in support of our theme and the bicentennial celebration. Ribbons and monetary prizes have always been awarded. While there is no charge to be in the parade, it is necessary to register your float at oldhamcountyday.com.



Oldham Era photos

This year's Oldham County Day parade grand marshal is homegrown business person and philanthropist Liska Coggeshall.

MUSIC

Two stages are set for a full lineup of a variety of entertainment throughout the entire Oldham County Day celebration from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bringing back last year's talented musicians performing in the Food Court Tent Stage will be: Music Under the Stars Band starting the day from 8-10 a.m., local favorite The Bottle Trees Band from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Lil' Jimmy Ritchey will take the stage at 1:15 p.m.

A second stage near the Alley Loop at the corner of Walnut and East Main will feature recording singer/songwriter, Paige Allen from noon-1 p.m., and local vocal students of Music with Brandy at 1:15 p.m. Additional talent will be announced for this stage. In addition, the well-loved Oldham County Community Band will be playing at 1 p.m.

MORE ATTRACTIONS

But wait, there's more. Crowd favorite Living Statues can be found around town during the celebration. Keep your eyes open to see who they will portray this year! Accordion player Micah Arnold will be strolling the festival playing his accordion. And who doesn't love a Petting Zoo? Llamas, bunnies and a turkey, oh my! The Louisville League of Mascots will also be seen strolling to pose for a picture or a high five.

BOOTHS AND FOOD TRUCKS

There will be vending booths — more than 125 so far — located every place we could find space to put them. You'll find something for everyone. Put on your



Oldham Era photos

The fan favorite and well bronzed "Living Statues" will be seen around town on Oldham County Day.



Oldham Era photos

Already at full capacity, the annual Oldham County Day parade will feature units from marching bands and floats to flashy cars — like this Kosair Sand Buggy — and just about anything else one can imagine.

walking shoes and stroll from The Springs Park to Walnut Street taking time to visit the unique local shops along the way. There are a few spots left to display your wares, log onto oldhamcountyday.com to request registration of your booth.

Food trucks featuring all of your favorite treats will be beckoning to your senses with picnic tables located in the covered tent.

There will be much for the eyes to see, the ears to hear and the hands to touch! Go to oldhamcountyday.com for more information.

Find Oldham County Day on Facebook and read about this popular and favorite festival in The Oldham Era special section publishing the week of Oldham County Day.

"Oldham County Day, it's what we do!" Oldham County Day is organized and hosted each year by Project Guild, a volunteer, service-oriented group that supports community needs and charities throughout the year using proceeds raised from this annual festival.

See you on July 20!



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Carrollton's Point Park provides a perfect spot overlooking the historic confluence of the Kentucky (left) and Ohio (right) rivers to watch a colorful sunset gazing westward. Native Americans, explorers, settlers, locals and tourists have been drawn to the spot for as long as the rivers have combined their waters at Mile 545 on the Ohio River.

Meet at the 545 in Carrollton, Kentucky

BY MISTY WHEELER

CARROLLTON/CARROLL COUNTY TOURISM DIRECTOR

Some stories begin at the end. This one begins at the at the end of the Kentucky River, at the point where it converges with the Ohio River.

The real beginning happened about 270 years ago. That's when James McBride canoed down the Ohio River — 15 years before Daniel Boone ever set foot in Kentucky — to the mouth of the Kentucky River to what is now Carrollton's Point Park at Mile Marker 545. What started as a hangout for George Rogers Clark, early explorers and rugged river travelers became a significant spot on the river for important historic figures,

sites, commerce and events, as well the center of the tobacco agricultural industry.

Today, Carrollton stands as one of the most intact early 19th century river towns, having maintained its genuine, down-to-earth small-town spirit, grit and charm. Just take in the incredible views from Point Park or General Butler State Resort Park, and you can see how desirable this town on two rivers was and still is today for residents, visitors and industrial enterprise.

Carrollton is not only where the rivers come together, but where people come together to experience the friendliness and authenticity of a town teeming with opportunity for

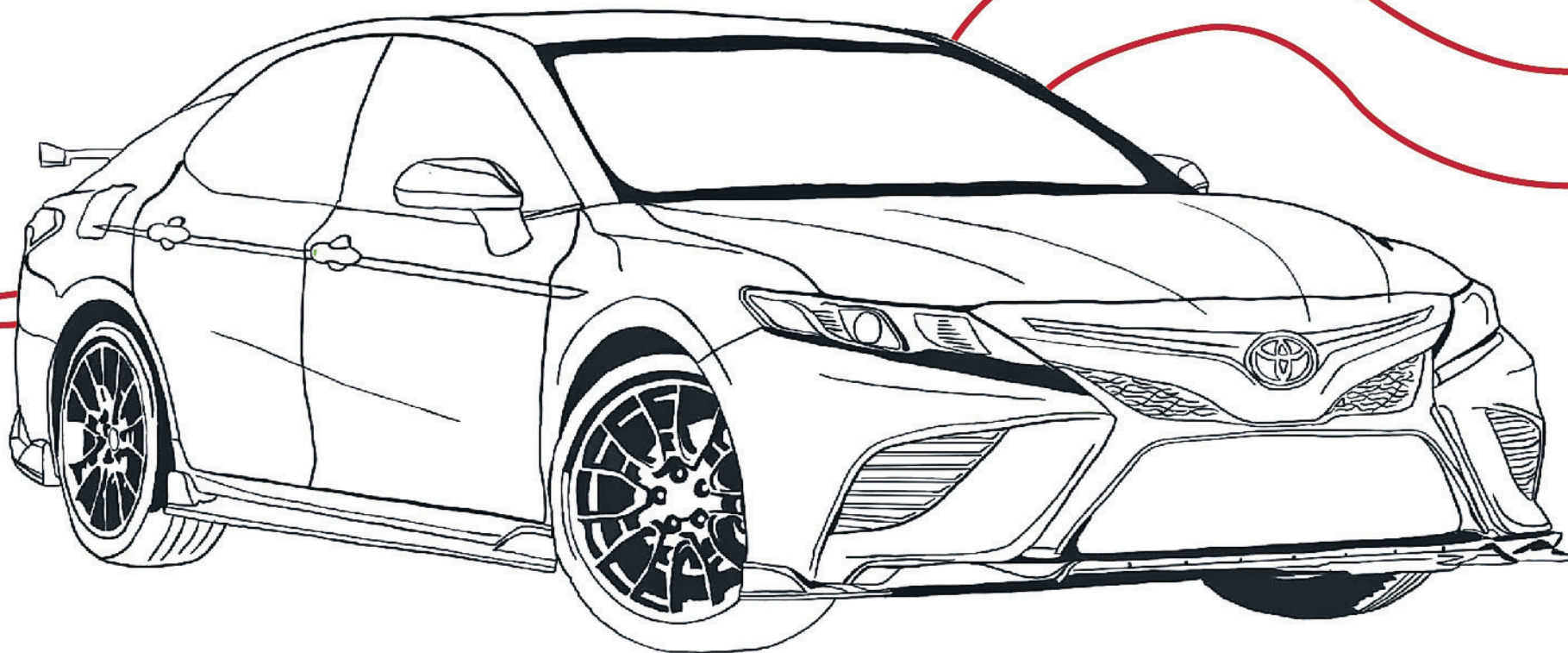
exploration, recreational activities, shopping, new ideas and growth. Here at Mile 545, there's not just a confluence of two rivers, but a confluence of history and river culture, nature and the scenic outdoors.

With all the recreational opportunities afforded by the rivers, Carrollton is a destination for fishermen, paddlers, hunters and campers. And with its 92-acre historic district, including the historic Masterson House — believed to be the oldest home still standing on the Ohio River — and hundreds of other early 19th century, Victorian and mid-20th century buildings and homes, there's much more to discover. From the historic Lock Number 1 on the

Kentucky River and the Butler-Turpin House to the quaint shops lining Main Street and festivals, such as Bands and BBQ at the Point, you're never far from the influence these two rivers have had on this special place.

For 981 miles, the Ohio River flows westward with each mile along the way offering something a little different. With every mile, the scenery changes as does the heritage, character and ambiance created by the river on its journey.

But there's one mile that is unique in all the river's passage, because it's where the Kentucky meets the Ohio. It's Mile 545, Carrollton, Kentucky, where the Ohio winds its way through your heart in an uncommon little river town.



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